

# The Prairie Light Review

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Volume 9

Number 2 *Sisyphus Invents the Moon*

Article 7

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Spring 5-1-1990

## Taos Eclipse

Jeanne Chase

*College of DuPage*

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### Recommended Citation

Chase, Jeanne (1990) "Taos Eclipse," *The Prairie Light Review*: Vol. 9 : No. 2 , Article 7.

Available at: <https://dc.cod.edu/plr/vol9/iss2/7>

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## TAOS ECLIPSE

*Jeanne Chase*

Earth, straw, water,  
molded by artisans'  
pliant red hands  
into bricks,  
sun baked,  
placed one by one,  
until adobe dwellings  
swell  
side by side  
around a courtyard  
of earth and sky.  
Gathering place  
of men in bold blankets,  
women baking bread,  
children at play,  
young eyes  
seeking each other  
a thousand years ago.

In the pueblo  
under the shadow  
of holy mountain  
their descendants yet  
tend art, fields,  
children, bread.  
Five dollars a camera,  
five dollars a car.  
Young man with wounded eyes  
and alcohol breath  
asks for coins.

One cool summer night  
earth's shadow eased  
upon the fullness of the moon  
and the moon  
allowed its brilliance  
to be consumed.